



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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RAYMOND MAN CHARGED WITH MAIL THREATS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Richard Irving, 32, of Raymond, New Hampshire, has been charged by a federal grand jury with six counts of mailing threatening communications. Mr. Irving was arraigned on those charges on Wednesday, January 8, 2003, at the United States District Court in Concord and released on conditions of bail.

The charges stem from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into threatening letters sent to various celebrities including Sean Lennon and Yoko Ono, Dustin Hoffman, Jennifer Beals, and actor Jeffrey Jones, as well as two letters sent to New Hampshire businesses. The indictment alleges that the letters sent to the celebrities contained written threats relating to the race or ethnic background of the celebrity or, in the Jeffrey Jones case, the alleged sexual orientation of the celebrity. Drawings contained with the written threats included swastikas or references to the "KKK."

The indictment also alleged that the mailings sent to the New Hampshire businesses, Pitkin's Antiques, Raymond, New Hampshire, and the Penang & Tokyo Restaurant, Exeter, New Hampshire, contained a smaller white envelope with the word "Anthrax" typewritten on it. Inside the smaller envelope was a powder-like substance, which was not Anthrax.

Each count of the indictment alleges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 876, which prohibits the mailing of threatening communications. Each violation of the statute is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The Raymond Police Department and the Exeter Police Department assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the investigation of this matter. This case is being handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.

An indictment is merely the formal way of charging an individual with a crime. All persons are presumed innocent of any charge against them until the government proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.